

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 032213

LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORS, SL

SUBJECT: SIR ALBERT MARGAI ENTERS THE PICTURE?

REF: A. STATE 29544 B. FREETOWN 530

1. PER REFTEL A, MR. ANSUMANA J. KAIKAI OF KEENE STATE COLLEGE, KEENE, N.H., CALLED ON THE SIERRA LEONE DESK OFFICER ON FEBRUARY 11 ON BEHALF OF SIR ALBERT MARGAI, EX-PRIME MINISTER OF SIERRA LEONE. ALTHOUGH HE MADE APPOINTMENT ON BASIS OF HAVING LETTER TO DELIVER, IN FACT KAIKAI HAD NONE.

2. HE MADE HIS POINTS ORALLY AS FOLLOWS: MARGAI, WHO LIVES IN LONDON, HAS BEEN FOLLOWING EVENTS IN SIERRA LEONE WITH GREAT CONCERN FOR PAST TWO WEEKS. SIR ALBERT HAD DECIDED MANY YEARS AGO AGAINST RETURNING TO SIERRA LEONEAN
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POLITICS, BUT WITH THE OBVIOUS DISSATISFACTION WITH STEVENS WHICH HAS NOW SURFACED IN ALL FACTIONS OF SOCIETY, HE WAS RECONSIDERING. BEFORE DECIDING TO RETURN, HOWEVER, HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE "BLESSINGS" OF THE UNITED STATES. SIR ALBERT HAS ALWAYS BEEN A GOOD FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES AND IN NONE OF HIS TROUBLES DURING THE 60'S DID HE HOLD THE U.S. RESPONSIBLE. SPEAKING FOR HIMSELF,

KAIKAI STATED THAT WITH THE RETURN OF SIR ALBERT AND HIS

SUPPORTERS THE U.S. COULD BE ASSURED OF MORE FAVORABLE ECONOMIC AND OTHER RELATIONSHIPS WITH SIERRA LEONE.

3. IN RESPONSE, KAIKAI WAS INFORMED THAT THE U.S. WAS FOLLOWING EVENTS IN SIERRA LEONE WITH INTEREST. WHILE WE SYMPATHIZED WITH ITS PRESENT FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES AND WERE WILLING TO ASSIST THE COUNTRY IF POSSIBLE, WE COULD IN NO WAY TAKE ANY ACTIONS WHICH COULD LEAD TO OUR INVOLVEMENT IN SIERRA LEONE'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. THE PRESENT DIFFICULTIES WERE A MATTER WHICH MUST BE RESOLVED BY THE PEOPLE OF SIERRA LEONE THEMSELVES.

4. KAIKAI ACCEPTED THIS LINE OF REASONING AND PROMISED TO REPORT IT TO SIR ALBERT. HE STATED SIR ALBERT HIMSELF WAS READY TO PLEAD HIS CASE, AND SAID THAT THE DEPARTMENT COULD EXPECT A MESSAGE FROM SIR ALBERT IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

5. IN ADDITION TO SPEAKING ON MARGAI'S BEHALF, KAIKAI SPOKE FOR 10-15 MINUTES ON BEHALF OF SIERRA LEONEAN STUDENTS FACING DEPORTATION FROM THE U.S. HE PRESENTED THE DESK WITH A HAND WRITTEN SHEET OF PAPER DESCRIBING FOUR CASES INVOLVING SIX SIERRA LEONEANS (TWO CASES WERE HUSBAND-WIFE) IN PHILADELPHIA, SOME OF WHOM WERE FACING DEPORTATION AT THE END OF THIS MONTH. KAIKAI ASKED FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR THEM AND FOR HIMSELF. THOSE

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BEING DEPORTED MAY NOT FACE ARREST, BUT THEY WOULD RECEIVE HARRASSMENT IF THEY WERE TO RETURN TO SIERRA LEONE. THEY DID NOT WISH TO BECOME AMERICANS; ONLY TO REMAIN IN THE U.S. UNTIL A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT TOOK PLACE WHICH WOULD NOT BE ANTITHETICAL TO THEIR BELIEFS. AS FOR HIMSELF, HE WAS A STUDENT SIMPLY BECAUSE THAT WAS THE ONLY WAY HE COULD LEAVE SIERRA LEONE FOR THE U.S. IF HE WERE DEPORTED BEFORE THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION WERE DEPOSED, HE WOULD TAKE UP ACTIVE RESISTANCE TO THE GOVERNMENT IN SIERRA LEONE.

6. COMMENT: KAIKAI'S CONNECTIONS WITH SIR ALBERT MAY BE VERY TENUOUS, AND IT IS POSSIBLE HE USED MARGAI'S NAME AS AN ENTREE TO PLEAD HIS CASE AND THAT OF HIS FRIENDS. AS PROOF OF HIS MISSION KAIKAI UNSOLICITED WROTE DOWN SIR ALBERT'S ADDRESS AS 8 HORNSEY RISE GARDENS, LONDON, N 19, AND HIS TELEPHONE AS 272-9761, AND CLAIMED THAT IF IT WERE NECESSARY WE COULD TELEPHONE THAT MOMENT AND TALK TO SIR ALBERT.

7. RE PARA 5 REFTTEL B, KAIKAI MADE NO REFERENCE TO

POLITICAL ISSUES IN THE HINTERLANDS OR FOREIGN MINISTER
MINAH.

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